

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, December 16. 1707.

I have lately been digressing from my Subject, but you may observe that in some of my last I had been panegyricking our happy Circumstances upon the Commons Address to her Majesty, and their unanimous concurring with all the Motions made to them in the QUEEN's Speech; I cannot leave the Subject, without putting our People in Mind, for their Satisfaction under their late Discouragement of one thing, which Her Majesty also hints in Her Gracious Answer to the Commons Address, viz. The Influence their unanimous Proceedings will have on Affairs, and Persons, and Governments abroad.

And if I may be allow'd to comment upon the Royal Text, I'll tell you some of them as they occur to me, perhaps your own Thoughts will assist you in observing more.

First, The King of Portugal, whose Circumstances are, but what we are all sorry for, too naked, press'd by a powerful and victorious Enemy, whom it is no Reflection on his Portugal Majesty to say, he is in no Capacity to withstand; yet as he hath hitherto shewn a Constancy unexpected by his Enemies, and seems to act a second Duke of Savoy, as to his Adherence to the Allies, so he cannot but be encouraged by this Resolution of the House of Commons, to stand by Her Majesty, and assist her for the Support of his Portugal Majesty: I say, he cannot but be encouraged to run greater Risques for this Cause, than in his present Circumstances we could have hoped for, and with a Constancy like that of the Duke of Savoy, wait the Extremity of all things, rather than desert his Allies.

Secondly,

Secondly, The Duke of Savoy, who at present perhaps may be uneasie, that the Troop, with which he hoped to act offensively shall be removed, and that the Confederates having clear'd Italy of the French, may leave him half delivered, and put him yet to struggle with the superior French, will now be satisfy'd, that England, however chargeable the late Disappointment at Toulon was to them, and however they regret that Misfortune, will yet stand by him, and as if no such thing had happen'd, continue to acknowledge his Bravery and Fidelity by continuing their powerful Assistance to him as before, letting him and all the World know, that 'tis quite another thing to rely on faithful and able Confederates, such as Britain and Holland, than on a French Levity, which being always act'd by the Principles of meer Self, have made it their Maxim to stand by, or abandon their Confederates, just as the present Occasion, and the Article of their own Interest requires, of which the Duke of Mantua is a late Tragical Instance.

Thirdly, King Charles of Spain, whom the Tories now by Way of Banter call *Le petit Roy de Barcellone*, or the little King of Barcellona, they had been but just if they had call'd him *Le petit Roy de Catalogne*; for with all their Victories and Superiority they have hardly been able to set their Foot in that Province yet, a thing chiefly owing to the admirable Conduct of that brave General the Earl of *Gallway*.

And here by the Way, the Author of the History of Europe has shown a most unaccountable Piece of Ignorance, as well as Partiality and Want of Manners, when in Requital to the Honourable Scars that great Man carries about him for our Service, he reproaches him, as having let the Loss of his Blood affect his Head; a scandalous and unworthy Treatment of a Man of Merit, who is fighting our Quarrels at the Hazard of his Life, and let any Man but examine, with what Conduct that noble Person has manag'd his few and discourag'd Troops, and put a Stop to the victorious Enemy in such a Manner, that he has not been able to take one Town of Note all this Campaign, and now bids fair to drive them

to a shameful Retreat: Let this be examin'd, it will appear, that General has lost his Blood for an ungrateful People, but has Judgment still enough to make them blush at their Want of a Sence of his Merit, or to make us blush for their Want of Manners.

But to return to King Charles; this Vote of the Commons of Britain must needs influence his Affairs, and put new Life to his Councils, new Courage into his Men, and new Hopes into his Friends and Well-wishers; they are now assur'd they shall not be abandon'd, the Enterprize shall not be given over, as a Party here, and perhaps there too, has suggested, that powerful Assistance shall be furnish'd, and that in the mean time they have nothing to do, but with Courage and Resolution to struggle with their present Circumstances, and remember the Relief of Barcelona, when Rescue and Relief came at the last Moment, and the good Fortune, or rather good Director of the Confederacy, appear'd in the very Article of Distress.

I know, it is enquir'd, where Relief will be found for King Charles; but I answer, it the Parliament provides but the Fund, let the Government alone to find Means for his Help, I know they alledge, the Hessians and Saxo-Gothan Troops are recalled out of Italy, and the Palatine Troops scruple to march, but Rumours will not disappoinct King Charles, the Hessians are not gone, nor the Saxons march'd yet; the Palatines, if their Prince says go, must go, and if the Officers refuse, other Officers will accept their Commissions, no Question.

'Tis a good Story of the Duke of *Parma*, when in his Government of Flanders a Regiment of *Walloons* refused to march, and he found it was in the Officers; he immediately took away all their Commissions, and made all the Serjeants, Captains and Lieutenants, the Corporals-Ensigns, and made private Men Serjeants, and the Regiment marched immediately; the Officers seeing this, would have comply'd, but it was then too late; the Prince was not a Man to trifl with, he would not do and undo; but as he made the Serjeants Captains, he continu'd them so, and the other suffer'd for their Folly.

The Moral of the Story is good in the Case of the Palatine Troops, let but their Sovereign command them to march, and there are Ways and Means to make the Officers comply, for a Mutiny of Officers is always less dangerous than a Mutiny of private Men—Besides, we do not hear the Palatine Officers refuse to go, tho' they may raise some Difficulties about particular Things, which may soon be adjusted.

But all will be made easie by this Unanimity of the Parliament, in whom is the Spring and Source of all the Motions on that side; and if on their Vote 20000 good season'd Troops be sent this Spring to King *Charles* in *Catalonia*, I shall not question seeing him again at the Gates of *Madrid*, in Spight of the united Forces of *France* and *Spain*; and this is the Way to make Her Majesty's Words good in Her Speech to the Parliament, *Viz.*

As the French have gained Ground upon *Us in Spain*, so they have been wholly driven out of *Italy*, by which it is become more easie for all the Allies to joyn their Affiance next Year, for Enabling the King of *Spain* to recover his Affairs in that Kingdom, and to reduce the whole *Spanish Monarchy* to his Obedience.

Fourthly, Nor does the Influence of this Parliamentary Resolution end here; the dull, dis-concerted, dis-united, unresolved, *beary & t. Christians* of *Germany*, shall receive new Vigour from this Vote, and Parliamentary Unanimity shall inspire them with proportioned Unanimity, that they never knew before; they that never knew what it was to act like Men, like Men in Danger, like Men environ'd with Enemies, but with a supine unaccountable Negligence suffer'd themselves to fall into the Hands of the French, without using the common Application of Men of Sense, will now be taught what it is to be vigorous and unanimous, will be shewn the Advantage of swift Councils, just Resolutions, steady Conduct, and a united Power.

If they have been under weak Management, under unhappy Councils, and wrong Measures, of which they have found the Inconvenience, they will be encouraged to double their Efforts, and open their Eyes,

pull their Hands out of their Bosoms, and restore their own Figure in the World, lately made despicable by the supine Negligence of their Instruments, and the miserable divided Circumstances of their Constitution.

Whether shall we next turn us? The discourag'd Merchants, the complaining Seamen, the insulted Plantations, the decaying Trade, shall all receive new Life from this new Resolution of the House of Commons, and the Miscarriages of our last Summer may perhaps, when examin'd into, shew, that they are not irretrievable; Trade in this Country has been a Chequer-work'd Table, moving always in differing Views to Mankind; to Day thriving, to Morrow decaying; Losses here, and Gain there; and who, that surveys the Losses, which fell upon our Trade the first Years of the late War in King *William's* Time, could have thought, Trade should have survived them, and that we should have any such thing as Commerce left, or a Merchant standing, Stock to trade with, or Ships to employ.

And yet we are trading still, we are sailing to all Parts of the World still, and venturing cheerfully to Sea upon all Occasions, and Advance of Markets abroad has been a Kind of Tax upon *Europe* to supply our Losses— When we have Loss, our outward-bound Cargoes have levied that Loss upon the Countries they were bound to, by selling the Goods which were there before, or the Cargoes which follow'd, dearer in Proportion; our Imports have upon their Arrival frequently paid for what miscarry'd; when our Ships have been lost, the Rising of Fraights has made it good to the Owners, and the Rising of Goods made it good to the Merchant; so that every Loss at Sea has not proved a Sinking the Stock of the Nation, and as I have often made it appear, we were at the latter End of the last War in a Condition of growing rich by the War.

But even these Discouragements we have so much por'd upon in the present Case, tho' they are alleviated in the Course of Commerce, they yet receive a greater Relief from the conjunct Influence of the Parliament, the just Concern the House shew, for the Losses the Merchants suffer, the just

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Resolutions they have taken to enquire into the Authors of our Miscarriages, are a full Satisfaction, that all that is possible shall be done to prevent the like for the future, and the Resolutions of the House to give needful and timely Supplies are a full Satisfaction; all possible Care shall be taken to put the Navy in a Posture, as much as is possible, to provide against the Vigilance and Power of the Enemy.

Thus the unanimous Vote of this Parliament puts Life and Vigour into every Part of the Confederacy, and animates every Branch, oils the Wheels of every Engine, and quickens the Motion of the whole—And what's the Consequence? I'll tell you what is, and I'll tell you what ought to be the Consequence of it, and use it as you please.

What is the Consequence?

1. Just as far as your Friends are encouraged, your Enemies are alarm'd; so far as it is the Ground of Joy and Support to your drooping Confederates, 'tis Ground of Apprehension and Distraction to the French, it puts them upon all possible Applications, their Councils are at Work, their Officers raising Levies, their Recruits are forming, their Magazines filling, their Measures taking, in order to oppose the most powerful Preparations, and in order to defend themselves against a Nation prepar'd for vigorous Attacks; 'tis plain, these Resolutions embarrass them, and of Course they must encourage us.

2. What should be the Consequences? — I could indeed preach here mighty Encouragements, and great Hopes of what shall be the Effects, but I am never for railing your Expectations; human Things have all their Vicissitudes, and good Success is not entailed, no not upon the wisest Councils, or the happiest Beginnings— But this I may justifie saying to you, the unanimous Proceedings, the Union, the Joint-Concurrence in the publick Good, which is thus began in your Representatives, ought to move the same Unanimity and Conjunction, as far as respects the same publick Good in You that are the represented— In vain is all the Agreement within, if there be none without; in vain the Houses unite, if we di-

vide; a hearty Affection to the publick Interest will be very well within Doors, but what will it avail us, if we carry on mortal Feuds and distracting Divisions among our selves abroad— This is the Ruin of our Affairs, and the Life of our Enemies Caut; this they depend upon, this they promise mighty things from, and in short this alone is the thing that can do us any mischief.

I have been long preaching this Doctrine, and I hope not in vain; I have on all Occasions shewn you the Mischiefs which attend it, and have not fail'd at all Hazards to tell you the Methods taken to divide and expel us, nor nor the Persons that attempt it, by letting you know your Enemies, and the Mischiefs that attend their Councils; I hope, I put you in a Way to deliver your selves; if it should be your Fate to fall into the Snare, you will never be able to say, it was for Want of Caution.

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